

Application No. 10/617,007  
Amendment "A" dated July 7, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed March 7, 2005

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [039] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] The ray traces 501, 502 and 503 in the combiner 500 are shown in Figure 5 for both forward and backward directions. A first linearly polarized beam is shown as a ray trace ~~[[502]]~~ 501 from a first light source 506. The first linearly polarized beam from first light source 506 is polarized to be parallel to the optical axis of the first wedge 304. The first linearly polarized beam is focused by a lens 505 into the first wedge 304. The first wedge 304 in this example has an optical axis of 90°, but other configurations may work as well. The light source 506 may be any conventional source, such as an integrated laser diode, i.e. laser diode 202, or the end of a fiber. When the light source is the end of a fiber, the fiber may be a polarization maintaining (PM) fiber. The fiber should have a high extinction ratio to obtain high beam combining efficiency. For example, an extinction ratio higher than 20dB is preferable in some embodiments of the invention.